

R E P O R TON THE ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT OF THE SHIP "SIMPHEROPOL"  
BY JAPANESE AT KOULUN AND ON THE LOOTING BY THE  
SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS OF THE JAPANESE ARMY.

The Military Prosecution Office of the Pacific Ocean area established by investigation following:

The ship "Simpheropol" was under recondition at the town of Koulun, which was stopped because of the opening of hostilities between Japan and USA and Great-Britain. The ship was moored at the pier of the Koulun Docks.

From December 18, 1941, to June 23, 1942 the Japanese authorities did not allow any member of the crew to go aboard the ship, and refused to give them permission to go to the docks territory to inspect the ship "Simpheropol" and to take measures for preserving the equipment and other valuables which were on the ship.

On the twentieth of December, 1941, a Japanese descent coming from the Koulun direction landed on the Victoria Island and occupied the territory where the house where more than one hundred Soviet sailors - the crews of the ships "Krechet", "Simpheropol", "Svirstroy", "Sergey Laso" and some groups of Philippine sailors lived, was.

Having occupied the Victoria Island, the Japanese officers and soldiers burst into the house of the Soviet sailors and threatening with arms, opened valises belonging to the Soviet sailors with bayonets and took things of some value. They also searched the sailors and took away money, watches and other valuables. So, for instance, they took commander Sokolov's gold watch, and robbed stoker Starostin of his gold watch, etc. Then the Japanese officers and soldiers took all the sailors out in the street and, though the area was under unceasing machine-gun and artillery fire, they lined them up in the square in front of the house, and during the lining up the Soviet sailors were beaten with bamboo sticks receiving blows on their heads. A Japanese officer twice stroke stoker Diachuk on the brow with a stick. The Soviet sailors again were searched, and valuables were taken from them. That lasted for 2 hours. Then the sailors were allowed to return to the house. During a month and

a half the Japanese authorities did not give the Soviet sailors any food and the latter suffered from starvation. Later they gave each of them 100 gr. of rice per day.

The indignities to which the Japanese officers and soldiers subjected the Soviet sailors were committed systematically. The following intolerable fact of humiliation of dignity and honour of Soviet sailor will show what these indignities were like: in the middle of May, 1942, the chief radio-operator of the ship "Krechet", Pokratiuk, Vladimir Semenovich and the chief-mechanic of the ship "Simpheropol" were returning from Hong Kong to Koulun, when being not far from the harbour they were searched by the Japanese policeman on guard. When Pokratiuk was approaching the booking-office he was called back by a Japanese sentinel who checked his passport and afterwards ordered him to stand on his knees and to ask pardon for the alleged offence he had given the sentinel. Pokratiuk got a stoke of bayonet for refusing to stand on his knees, and two other Japanese soldiers who had meanwhile approached him, beat him with sticks. Then Pokratiuk was taken to the Police Station where the Japanese officer having learned from the passport that Pokratiuk was a Soviet sailor, interrogated him for half an hour in the Japanese language inapprehensible to Pokratiuk, the interrogation being accompanied with beating his face. Then his left ear was injured with a strong blow inflicted with fist, and as a result of it Pokratiuk had a dull hearing for a long time.

On June 23, 1942 the Japanese command allowed the captain of the ship "Simpheropol", second mate Korsakov, first mate Sidorov and others to go aboard their ship with the aim of conservation of the ship which was moored at the pier of the Koulun Docks. They found out that there was a hole in the hull of the ship "Simpheropol" made by the artillery shell which had hit the left upper deck of the bow, that the cabin doors were torn away, the writing tables broken, the velvet from the sofas cut off. Besides, the deck equipment, the pilot, skipper, buffet caboose and fire equipment, the life-rescuing equipment, overalls, personal belongings of the crew, things pertaining to cultural entertainment, cabin equipment, the ship radio station and the whole stock of food for the crew were plundered, and some damage was deliberately done to the engine room.

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The losses sustained by the state amount to 10,615,000 rubles.

Military Prosecutor of the Pacific Ocean Area

Lieutenant Colonel of the Judicial Corps

Shlychkov.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION OF THE ABOVE DOCUMENT:

I, M. Gildenblat, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the Russian and English languages: and the above is a correct and true translation of the indicated Document.

Signature: /s/ M. Gildenblat

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